



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3, Annex 3.8: Interim Great-Crested Newt
Surveys Technical Report

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
the Applicant	The legal entity making the applications for consent; Morven Offshore Wind Limited (MvOWL).
Desk study	A desk-based research method used to collect and analyse existing information, including the review of literature, previous survey reports, databases and maps to inform the baseline environment and the need for further surveys.
Expert Working Group (EWG)	A topic-specific group of specialists formed under the evidence plan process (EPP) to resolve technical issues and agree approaches for environmental assessments.
Field survey	The direct on-site observation and collection of environmental data, through sampling and recording, undertaken within the Survey Area.
Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)	The part of the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate responsible for assessing and administering applications for marine licences and Section 36 consent (offshore) in Scotland.
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	The MMO, as a UK government body, is responsible for licensing, regulating and overseeing activities in the marine environment for English waters. For a Development Consent Order (DCO) and deemed marine licence, the MMO acts as a statutory consultee, advising on marine planning, environmental impacts, habitats and compliance with marine licensing regulations.
MHPGC Project Scoping Boundary	The spatial extent of the area used to define the environmental baseline to inform impact assessments at the time the MHPGC Project Scoping Report was submitted.
MHPGC Project Scoping Opinions	Separate scoping opinions received from Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) (on behalf of the Scottish Ministers) in response to the MHPGC Project Scoping Report. The MHPGC Project Scoping Opinions contain the range of issues that PINS, and MD-LOT in consultation with statutory stakeholders, have identified should be considered within the EIA process.
MHPGC Project Scoping Report	A Scoping Report for the MHPGC Project, scoping the likely significant effects of the project on the environment, was submitted and accepted by PINS and submitted to the Scottish Ministers, via the MD-LOT in February 2025.
MHPGC Project PEIR Onshore Red Line Boundary	Spatial extent used to define the environmental assessment within the PEIR. The area within which all onshore components of the MHPGC Project will be located landward of MHWS, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (e.g. construction compounds).
MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary	The area within which all components of the MHPGC Project will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds).
Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project	The MHPGC Project is comprised of the offshore export cables in Scottish and English waters from the Morven North or the Morven South offshore substation platform(s) (OSP), landfall, onshore export cables, the onshore land substation (LSS) and AC connection cables. Also referred to in this report as the MHPGC Project, for ease of reading.
MHPGC Project Preliminary	A report that provides preliminary environmental information in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This is information that enables consultees to understand the likely

Term	Meaning
Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)	significant environmental effects of a project and which helps to inform consultation responses.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The PINS is an executive agency of the UK Government responsible for administering and examining DCO applications for NSIPs in England. PINS manages the application process, oversees consultation and examination, and makes a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State on whether consent should be granted.
Study Area	For each environmental topic, the baseline environment will be characterised, and the likely significant effect will be described within a topic-specific Study Area. Specific Study Areas are defined for each topic and are based on the maximum spatial extent across which likely significant effects of the MHPGC Project may be experienced by the relevant receptors (i.e. Zone of Influence (Zoi)).
Survey Area	The area within which field surveys for the environmental topic are undertaken. This would include all areas for which impacts from the MHPGC Project may occur on relevant receptors.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Affairs
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DLL	District Level Licensing
eDNA	Environmental DNA
EPS	European Protected Species
ERIC NE	Environmental Records Information Centre North East
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
GCN	Great Crested Newt
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
IACPC	Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate
LONI	Letter of No Impediment
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licencing Operations Team
MHPGC	Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NE	Natural England
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate

Acronym	Meaning
SPI	Species of Principal Importance

Units

Unit	Meaning
°C	Degrees Celsius
km	Kilometre
m	Metre

Executive summary

This report presents the results of the great crested newt (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*) desk study and field studies undertaken in May and June 2025, and April 2026 to inform **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**.

A programme of GCN surveys were undertaken, as well as a desk study covering the Great Crested Newt Survey Area. The desk study identified one historical record of GCN within the Great Crested Newt Study Area, however no historical records were identified within the MHPGC Project PEIR Redline Boundary: Onshore.

The desk study identified waterbodies (ponds and ditches) considered suitable to support GCN. All waterbodies that were considered suitable for GCN and safe to access were assessed using Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, to determine the presence or likely absence based on the presence of genetic material. Initial field surveys were carried out between 19-22 May 2025, and follow-up survey visits were undertaken on 23 June 2025 to revisit any ponds that were dried up at the time of the initial visit. An additional re-visit to check the ponds that were previously dried up, or inaccessible, to determine if any additional surveys were required was undertaken in April 2026. A total of 12 ponds were sampled for eDNA across 2025 and 2026. No positive results were returned for the waterbodies sampled in 2025 and 2026 within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area.

The MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore falls within amber and green risk zones for GCN, as defined by Natural England's District Level Licencing (DLL) scheme.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1.1 This report presents the Great Crested Newt (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*) survey undertaken for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (hereafter 'the MHPGC Project'). It forms **Volume 3, Annex 3.8: Interim Great Crested Newt Survey Technical Report, of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** prepared for the MHPGC Project and supports **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR**.
- 1.1.1.2 The GCN surveys were completed to assess the suitability of waterbodies for GCN, within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore. This report presents the details of the GCN surveys undertaken between May and June 2025, and April 2026.

1.2 Legislation

1.2.1 Overview

- 1.2.1.1 GCN is a European Protected Species (EPS), fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation, it is considered an offence to:
- deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture a GCN;
 - deliberately destroy their eggs;
 - damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places (including when GCN are not present);
 - possess, control, transport and sell GCN (alive or dead), or any part of them;
 - obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection.
- 1.2.1.2 GCN is further listed as a species of principal importance (SPI) pursuant to Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended). Developers must comply with the legal protection of GCN. A mitigation licence will be required for developers to carry out proposed works considered to comprise the above-mentioned activities that would otherwise be illegal.

1.3 Consultation and engagement

1.3.1 EIA Scoping Report

- 1.3.1.1 The MHPGC Project Scoping Report was issued to the PINS and MD-LOT in November 2024 (RPS, 2025). Following consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies, PINS (on behalf of the SoS) and MD-LOT provided a Scoping Opinion in March 2025 (PINS, 2025; MD-LOT, 2025).
- 1.3.1.2 **Section 3.3 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR** sets out the key comments raised during the scoping process specific to terrestrial ecology and terrestrial and intertidal ornithology.

1.3.2 Expert Working Groups

- 1.3.2.1 The scope, methodology and findings of the GCN surveys completed to date have been discussed and, where appropriate, agreed with stakeholders via the Onshore Ecology and Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology Expert Working Group (EWG). Further detail regarding consultation undertaken with respect to terrestrial ecology and terrestrial and intertidal ornithology can be found in **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR**.

2 Methodology

2.1 Overview

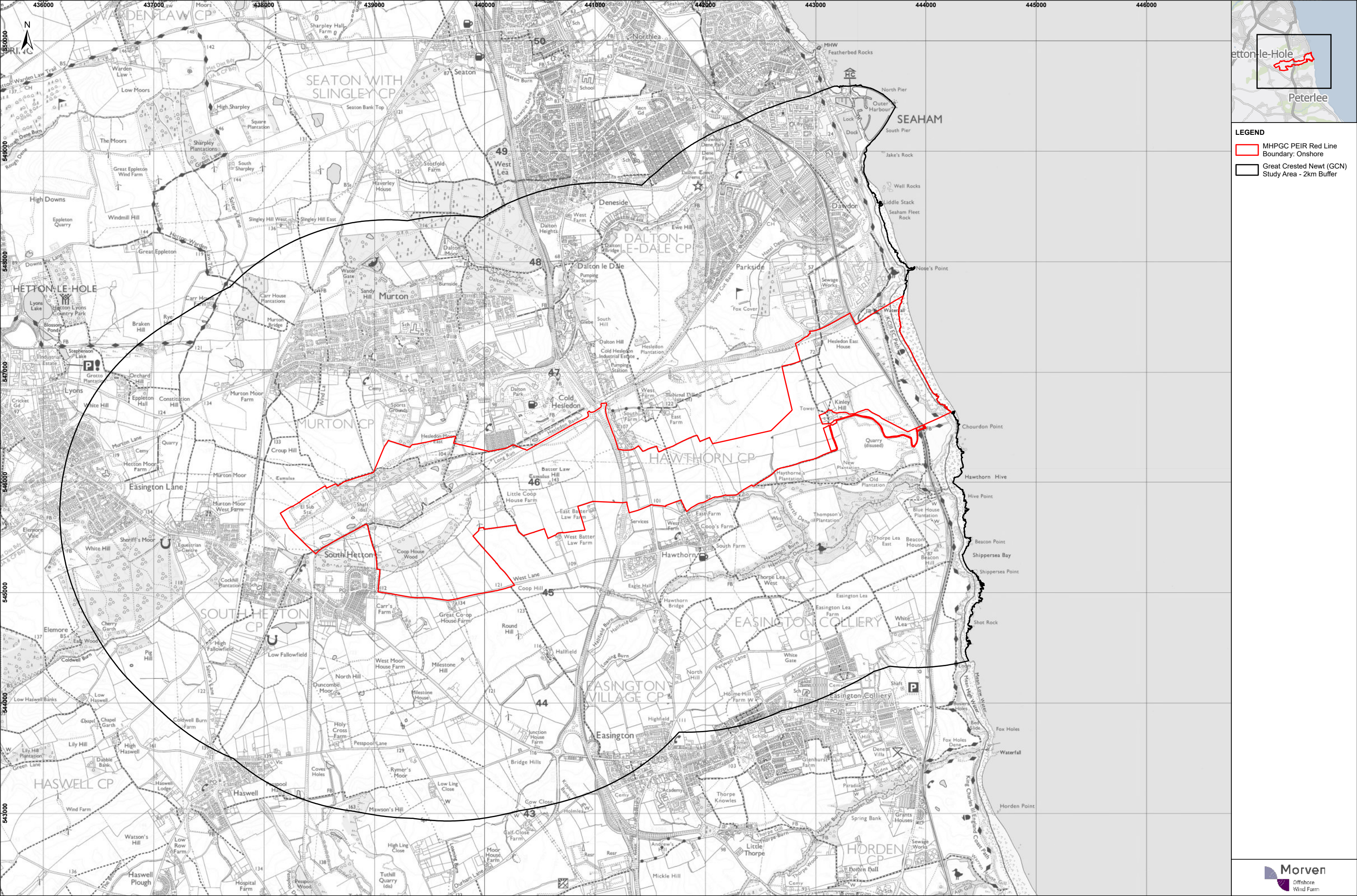
- 2.1.1.1 A combination of a desk study and field surveys were undertaken for the MHPGC Project to ascertain the presence/absence of GCN within the Great Crested Newt Study Area and Great Crested Newt Survey Area (as defined below). Objectives of the desk study and field surveys were to identify habitats with potential to support GCN and to determine presence/likely absence of GCN within waterbodies within the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore, or those adjacent.

2.2 Study area

- 2.2.1.1 The Great Crested Newt Study Area is the area subject to a desk study for GCN and comprises the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore, with a 2km buffer, in line with current guidance (CIEEM, 2017). It is intended to cover the area within which an impact (direct or indirect) can be reasonably expected to occur and describes the geographical extent subject to desk study.
- 2.2.1.2 GCN generally inhabit habitat present within 250m to 500m of a breeding pond, but depending on the connectivity of the landscape, individuals may disperse as far as up to 1km. (Langton *et al.*, 2001). The size of the Great Crested Newt Study Area has been selected to reflect the maximum dispersal rates of GCN from their breeding sites and the Great Crested Newt Study Area was determined following consideration of the likely zone of influence of the MHPGC Project, together with the suitability of habitats present, as per best practice guidelines (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2017). The location and geographic extent of the Great Crested Newt Study Area is presented in **Figure 2.1**.

2.3 Survey area

- 2.3.1.1 The Great Crested Newt Survey Area has been defined as all suitable waterbodies located within, and up to 250m from, the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore, as shown in **Figure 2.2**. The Great Crested Newt Survey Area reflects the distance within which adult GCN most commonly remain to breeding ponds. Beyond this, distances between waterbodies and the MHPGC Project are likely to present impediments to GCN dispersal, as defined by best practice guidance (Langton *et al.*, 2001).
- 2.3.1.2 It should be noted that due to access restrictions, private gardens, roads and carriageway embankments, railways and railway embankments and areas under construction were excluded from the Great Crested Newt Survey Area. Where access was not possible to private land, a review of satellite mapping, together with possible surveys from adjacent land, were utilised. Areas that were inaccessible at time of survey in 2025 were re-visited in April 2026.



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 2.1 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT (GCN) STUDY AREA

0 0.5 km
Scale@A3: 1:30,000

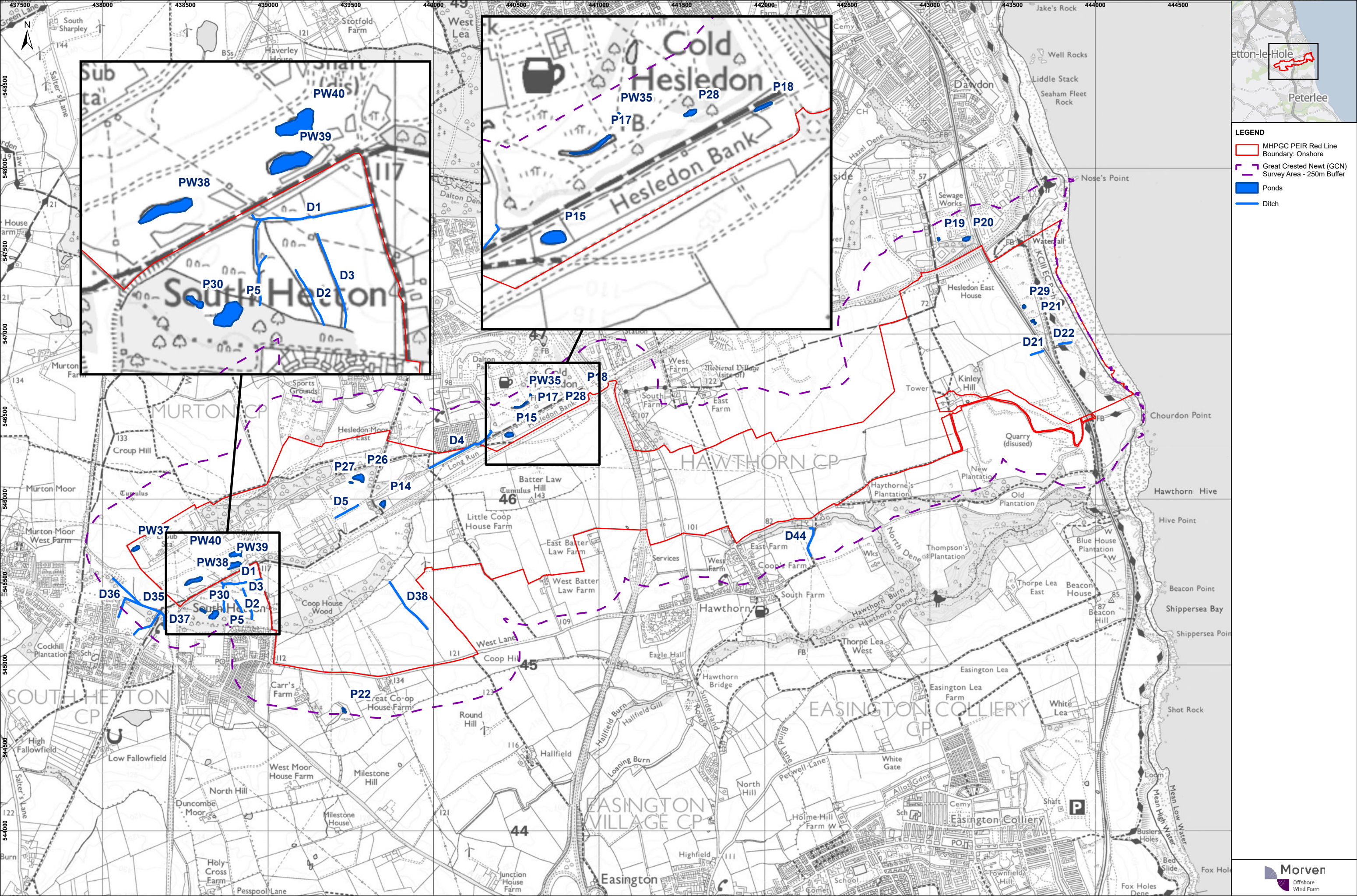
Geodetic Information:
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Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.
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Drawing Number:
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-060

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2026	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 2.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT (GCN) SURVEY AREA

0 0.5 km
Scale@A3: 1:20,000

Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
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Drawing Number: MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-061				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
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2.4 Survey methodology

2.4.1 Desk study

2.4.1.1 The purpose of the desk study was to collect and analyse existing baseline data in relation to GCN records, and designated sites notified for GCN, within the Great Crested Newt Study Area. Initial information was gathered from the following sources:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Map (Natural England, n.d.);
- Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC NE) (Environmental Records Information Centre, n.d.).

2.4.2 Field survey

2.4.2.1 The desk study identified suitable ponds and ditches to be visited as part of the field surveys (**Figure 2.2**). Pond survey data was collected in 2024 and identified suitable waterbodies requiring presence/likely absence survey using eDNA analysis. Suitable waterbodies were identified using aerial imagery, supplemented by existing habitat data. Suitable waterbodies were defined as waterbodies/features where water is stationary (i.e., not fast flowing) with habitat and conditions potentially suitable to support breeding by GCN. A total of 31 waterbodies (19 ponds and 12 ditches) within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area were considered suitable. The locations of these waterbodies are shown in **Figure 2.2**.

2.4.2.2 Field surveys were undertaken during 2025 and 2026. Initial field surveys were carried out between 19 and 22 May 2025 (within the optimal survey period, mid-March to mid-June) in line with best practice guidance (Amphibians and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, 2010; Langton *et al.*, 2001; SureScreen Scientifics, n.d.). The weather on the days of the initial surveys was sunny and dry, with average temperatures of 17°C. The spring preceding the field survey had been subject to minimal rainfall and conditions within the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore were considered to be dry. As such, most of the waterbodies identified as suitable following the desk study were either dried up or not present at the time of survey.

2.4.2.3 The field survey comprised a walkover survey of all identified ponds and ditches within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area, in order to assess their suitability for GCN. Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessments were not undertaken. Instead a precautionary approach was taken whereby all potential ponds and ditches containing standing water were scoped into the survey. Any pond or ditch feature that was dry, not present at the time of the field survey, or not safe to access, was considered unsuitable for further survey/assessment. Where features were inaccessible due to unsafe conditions, presence/likely absence of GCN could not be determined through eDNA sampling. On a precautionary basis, it was therefore assumed that the feature may be suitable to support GCN.

2.4.2.4 Surveys using eDNA sampling/analysis were conducted on all remaining pond or ditch features that were considered suitable for GCN and safe to access. The identification of genetic material in the waterbodies was used to determine GCN presence/likely absence. The field surveys were carried out in the presence of a licenced ecologist and utilised eDNA survey kits to collect water samples from suitable waterbodies within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area. This involved collecting a total of 20 water samples from each pond, spaced out along its perimeter where possible and representatively sampling habitat present. Samples were combined and mixed, and pipetted into six separate sample tubes containing preserving fluid, before being sent for laboratory analysis.

2.4.2.5 A follow-up field survey was undertaken on 23 June 2025, to target ponds that were not containing standing water at the time of the initial visit. All targeted ponds remained dry at the time of the follow-up survey, so no additional eDNA samples were undertaken. A further follow-up field survey was carried out between 20 and 22 April 2026 to target ponds that were previously dry or inaccessible, and to determine if any additional ponds or ditches considered to be suitable for GCN required eDNA surveys, see Table 3.2: Summary of eDNA results within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area Table 3.2 for results.

2.4.3 Incidental records

- 2.4.3.1 Any sightings of non-target species (or evidence of) recorded during surveys were reported in the separate incidental records form on the FieldMaps Application.

2.4.4 Limitations

- 2.4.4.1 It should be noted that while 32 waterbodies (20 ponds and 12 ditches) were identified within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area, surveyors were only able to visit 31 waterbodies (20 ponds and 11 ditches) to carry out GCN surveys. One waterbody could not be surveyed due to land access constraints.
- 2.4.4.2 In addition, the 2025 spring period had been subject to minimal rainfall, meaning that conditions were considered to be dry. As a result, of the 31 waterbodies (20 ponds and 11 ditches) that were accessed, 21 were either dried up or not present at the time of field survey. These were revisited later in the season and in 2026 with the intention of re-surveying, but conditions had not changed. These waterbodies were considered unsuitable for further surveying and eDNA water sampling was not possible. The waterbodies that were not sampled are shown in **Figure 3.2**. The need for HSI assessment will be considered ahead of the Environmental Statement.
- 2.4.4.3 A HSI assessment was included in the proposed survey methodology, as set out in **Volume 3, Annex 3.1: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology Survey Methodologies Technical Report, of the PEIR** but was not undertaken as part of the GCN survey programme. Instead, a precautionary approach was used whereby all ponds and ditches holding standing water were progressed to eDNA survey. Consequently, no waterbodies were scoped out on the basis of HSI, and HSI was not considered necessary to inform the survey strategy. Whilst this differed from the proposed methodology, the approach adopted was considered precautionary as it ensured all waterbodies with standing water were subject to presence/absence survey.

3 Baseline characterisation

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 Statutory designated sites

- 3.1.1.1 No statutory designated sites notified for GCN were identified within the Great Crested Newt Study Area.

3.1.2 Non-statutory sites

- 3.1.2.1 The desk study did not identify any non-statutory designated sites notified for GCN within the Great Crested Newt Study Area.

3.1.3 Local records

- 3.1.3.1 To inform the desk study, records were requested from the ERIC NE and were obtained on the 28 October 2025. Data obtained from the ERIC NE is shown in **Figure 3.1**. There was a total of one GCN record obtained from this search, from May 2017 and located 755m to the north of the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore. There were no records of GCN Class Survey Licence Returns within the Great Crested Newt Study Area.

3.2 Field survey

- 3.2.1.1 The desk study identified suitable ponds and ditches to be visited as part of the field surveys. This included a total of 32 waterbodies (20 ponds and 12 ditches) to be visited.
- 3.2.1.2 The field survey comprised an initial walkover survey of all identified ponds and ditches within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area, to assess their suitability for GCN. However, surveyors were only able to visit 31 waterbodies (20 ponds and 11 ditches) to carry out GCN surveys, with one waterbody (P22) being inaccessible due to land access constraints. Furthermore, any pond or ditch feature that was dry, not present at the time of the field survey, with flowing water, or not safe to access, was considered unsuitable for further survey/assessment.
- 3.2.1.3 Considering the results of the field survey initial walkover, of the ponds and ditches considered suitable to support GCN, a total of 12 waterbodies were considered suitable for eDNA samples to be collected.
- 3.2.1.4 The locations of the 12 waterbodies for which eDNA surveys were completed are shown in **Figure 3.2**. The results of the field survey and eDNA surveys are summarised in **Table 3.1**, with the full analysis results set out in **Appendix 1**. The eDNA surveys did not return any positive results within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area.

Table 3.1: Summary of GCN records obtained from ERIC NE

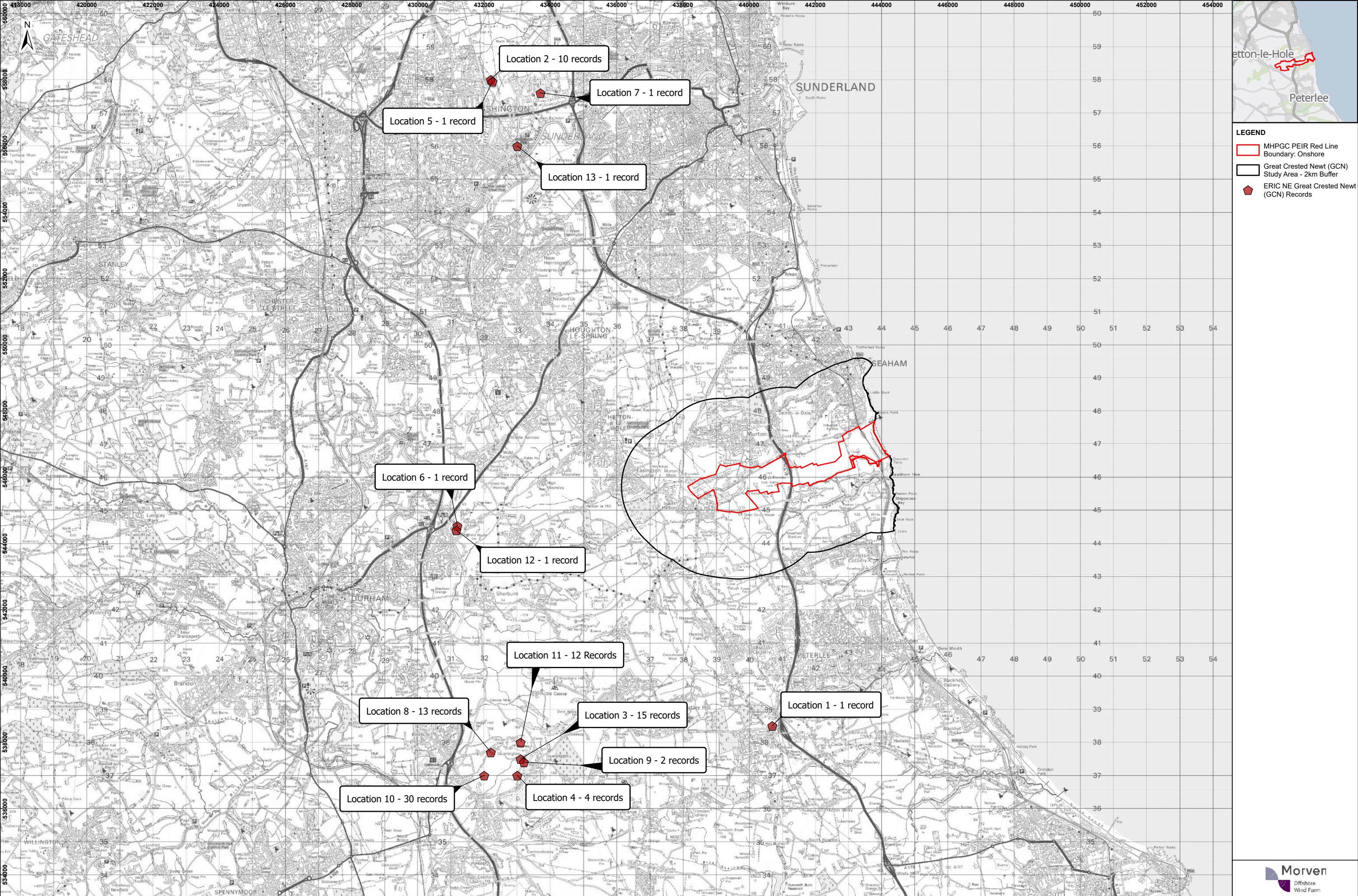
ID	OSGB36 British National Grid	Score	Survey completed / Status		Suitability	Survey Date
			2025	2026		
P5	NZ 38692 45316	0/12	eDNA Negative	eDNA Negative	-	19-22/05/2025 and 20/04/2026
P14	NZ 39693 45977	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	-	21/04/2026
P15	NZ 40870 46649	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	-	21/04/2026
P17	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
P18	NZ 40870 46649	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	-	19-22/05/2025 and 21/04/2026
P19	NZ 43053 47575	0/12	eDNA Negative	Not sampled	No access in 2026. Surveyed in 2025 with negative result for GCN.	19-22/05/2025
P20	NZ 43234 47574	0/12	eDNA Negative	Not sampled	No access in 2026. Surveyed in 2025 with negative result for GCN.	19-22/05/2025
P21	NZ 43628 47072	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	Palmate newt present in 2026.	21/04/2026
P22	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Not surveyed in 2025 or 2026.	-
P26	NZ 39572 46101	0/12	eDNA Negative	eDNA Negative	-	19-22/05/2025 and 21/04/2026
P27	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
P28	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-

ID	OSGB36 British National Grid	Score	Survey completed / Status		Suitability	Survey Date
			2025	2026		
P29	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
P30	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
PW35	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
PW37	NZ 38204 45710	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	-	20/04/2026
PW38	NZ 38551 45511	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	-	20/04/2026
PW39	NZ 38791 45600	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative	-	20/04/2026
PW40	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Pond no longer exists due to the construction of another development.	-
NP2	NZ 38208 45580	0/12	Not sampled	eDNA Negative		22/04/2026
D1	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Almost completely dry in 2026, flowing stream in 2025, not suitable for GCN.	-
D2	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
D3	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026.	-
D4	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-
D5	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-

ID	OSGB36 British National Grid	Score	Survey completed / Status		Suitability	Survey Date
			2025	2026		
D21	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry - Unsuitable due to steepness of cliff	-
D22	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry - Unsuitable due to steepness of cliff	-
D35	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-
D36	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-
D37	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-
D38	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-
D44	-	-	Not sampled	Not sampled	Dry in 2025 and 2026	-

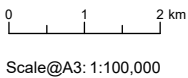
Table 3.2: Summary of eDNA results within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area

Pond ID	OSGB36 British National Grid	Score	Status	Survey Date
NP2	NZ 38208 45580	0/12	Negative	22/04/2026
P5	NZ 38692 45316	0/12	Negative	19-22/05/2025 and 20/04/2026
P14	NZ 39693 45977	0/12	Negative	21/04/2026
P15	NZ 40462 46391	0/12	Negative	21/04/2026
P18	NZ 40870 46649	0/12	Negative	19-22/05/2025 and 21/04/2026
P19	NZ 43053 47575	0/12	Negative	19-22/05/2025
P20	NZ 43234 47574	0/12	Negative	19-22/05/2025
P21	NZ 43628 47072	0/12	Negative	21/04/2026
P26	NZ 39572 46101	0/12	Negative	19-22/05/2025 and 21/04/2026
PW37	NZ 38204 45710	0/12	Negative	20/04/2026
PW38	NZ 38551 45511	0/12	Negative	20/04/2026
PW39	NZ 38791 45600	0/12	Negative	20/04/2026



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.1 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT (GCN) ERIC RECORDS



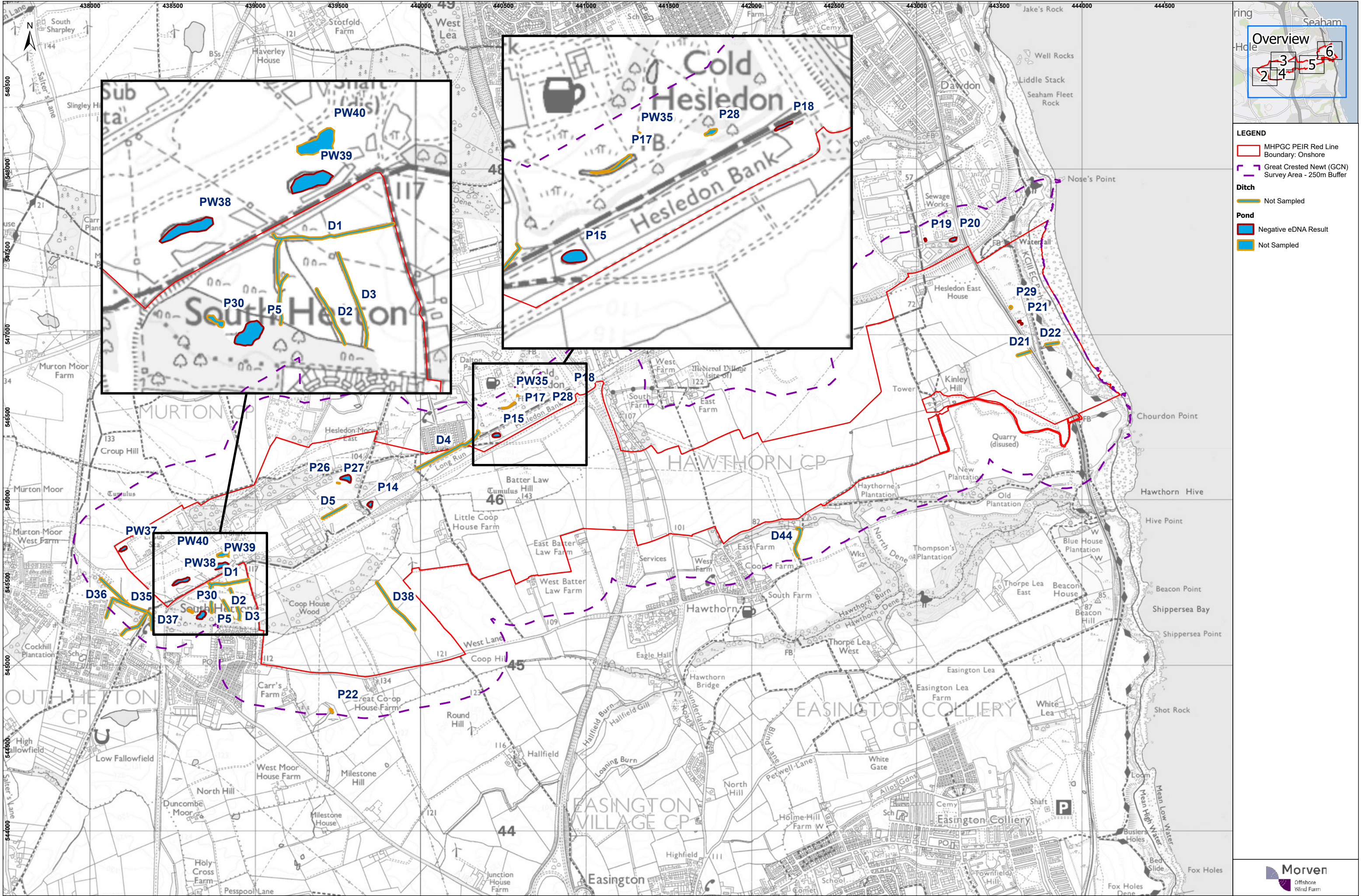
Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
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Drawing Number:
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-062

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY RESULTS
SHEET 1 OF 6 (OVERVIEW)

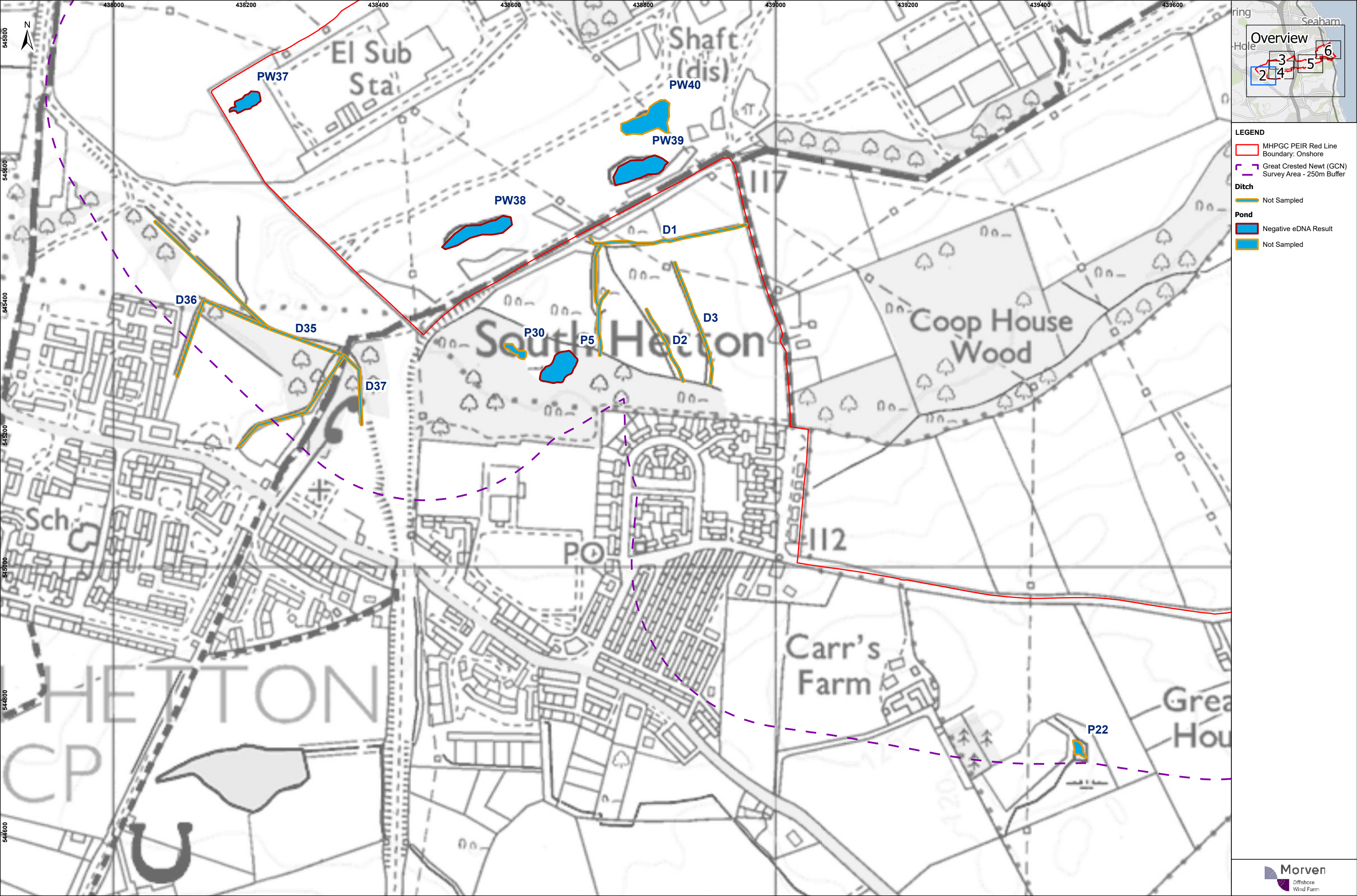
0 0.25 0.5 km
Scale@A3: 1:20,000

Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

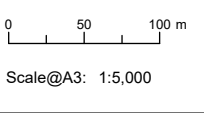
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Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.

Drawing Number: MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-065				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY RESULTS
SHEET 2 OF 6



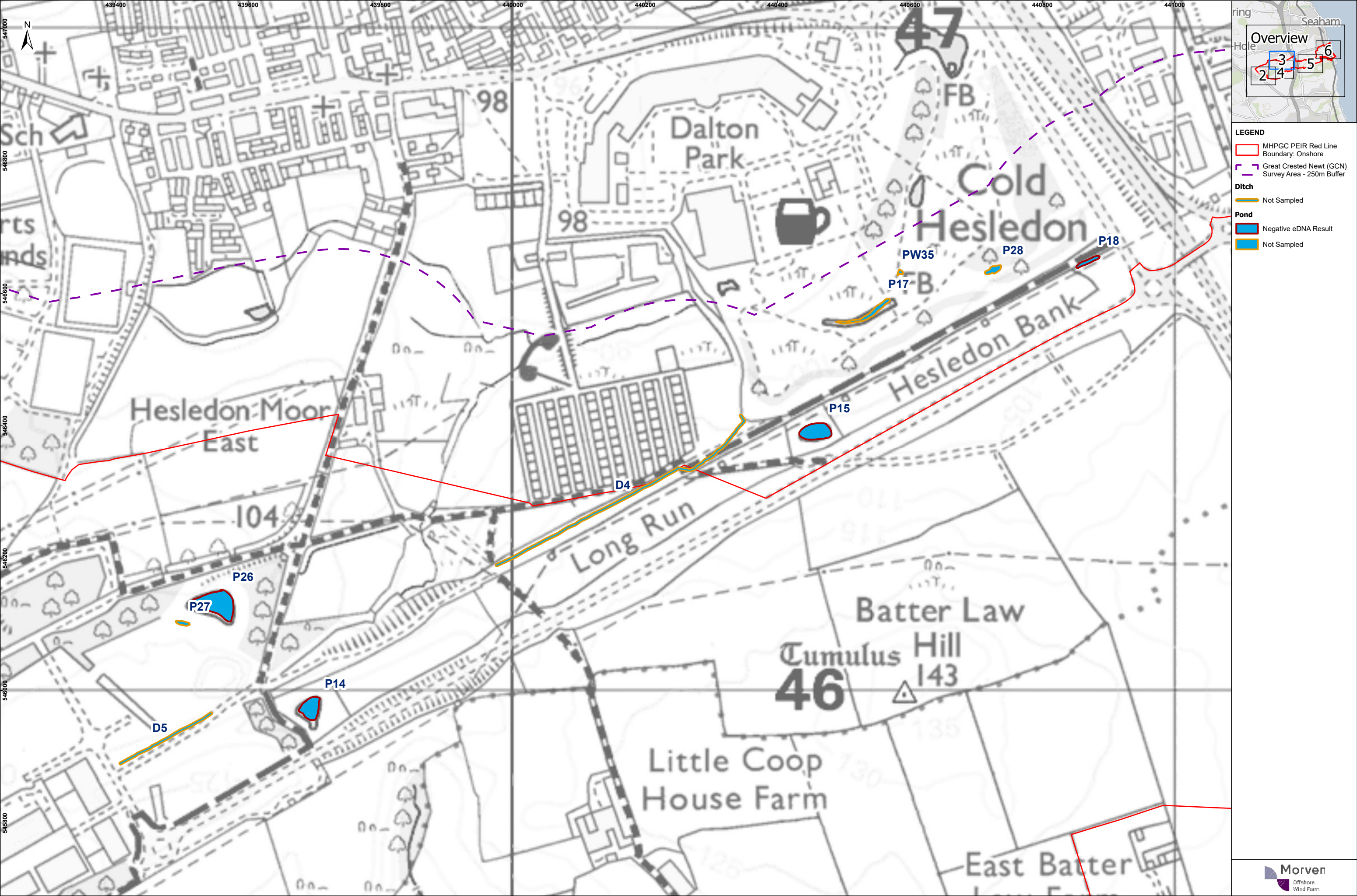
Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.

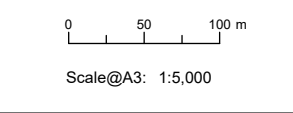
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MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-065

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
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Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY RESULTS
SHEET 3 OF 6



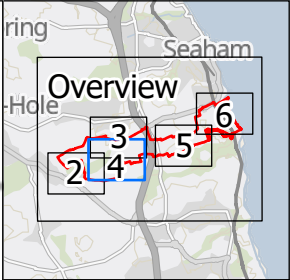
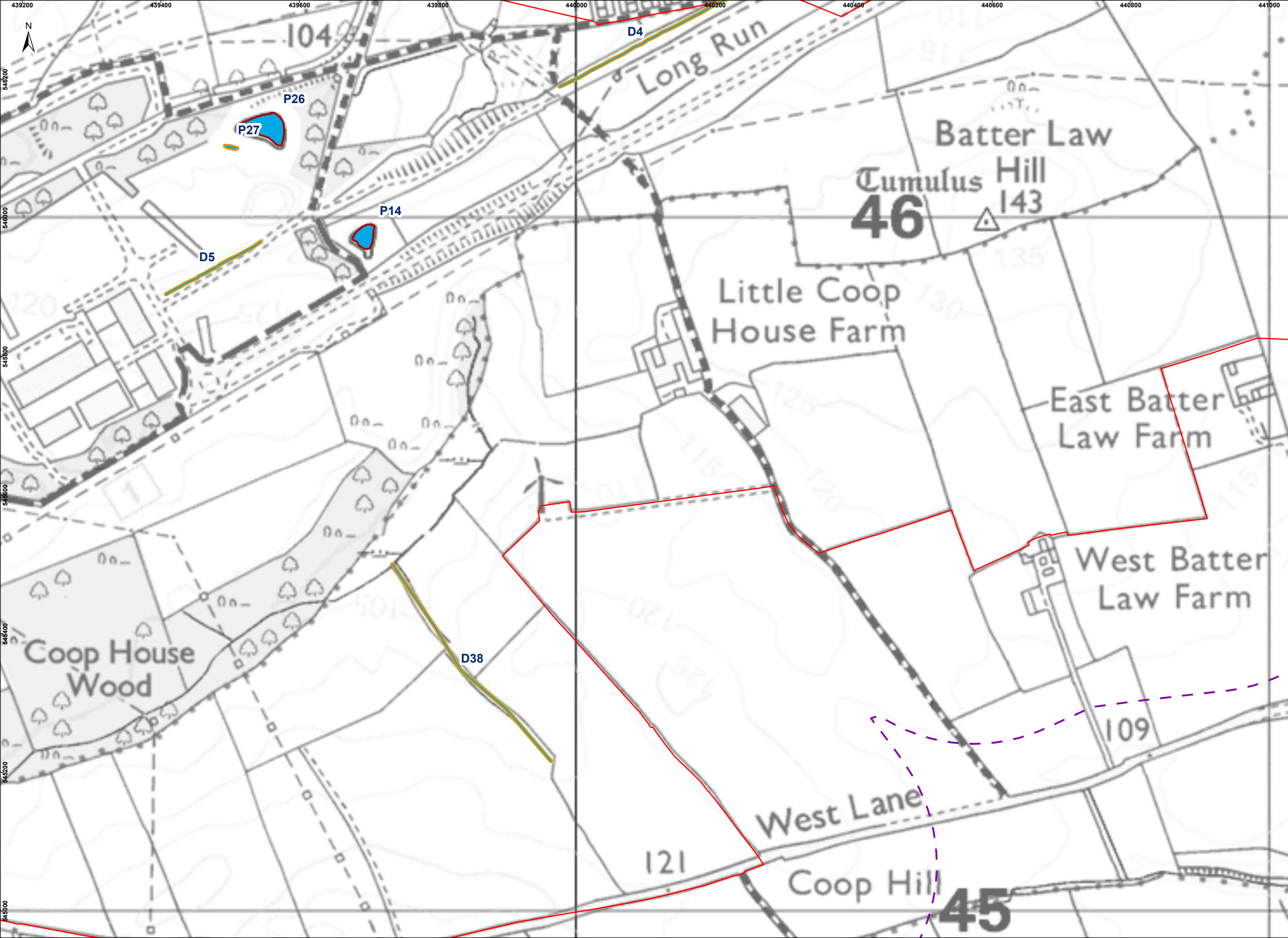
Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
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Drawing Number:
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-065

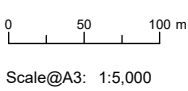
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00	17/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
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- LEGEND**
- MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore
 - Great Crested Newt (GCN) Survey Area - 250m Buffer
 - Ditch**
 - Not Sampled
 - Pond**
 - Negative eDNA Result
 - Not Sampled

Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY RESULTS
SHEET 4 OF 6

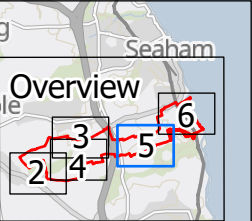
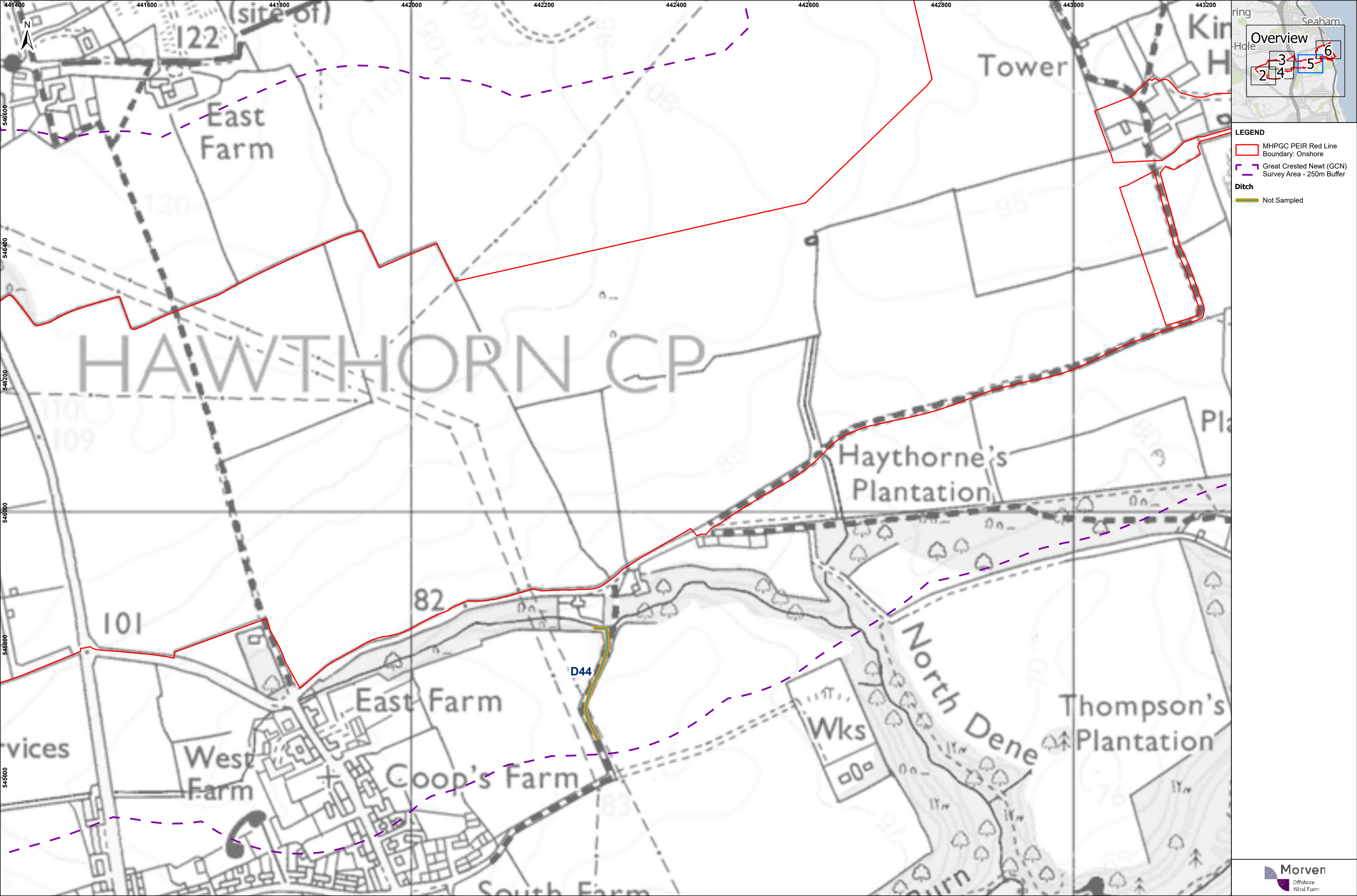


Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
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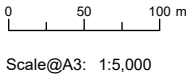
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VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2026	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



- LEGEND**
- MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore
 - Great Crested Newt (GCN) Survey Area - 250m Buffer
 - Ditch**
 - Not Sampled

Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY RESULTS
SHEET 5 OF 6



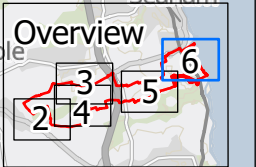
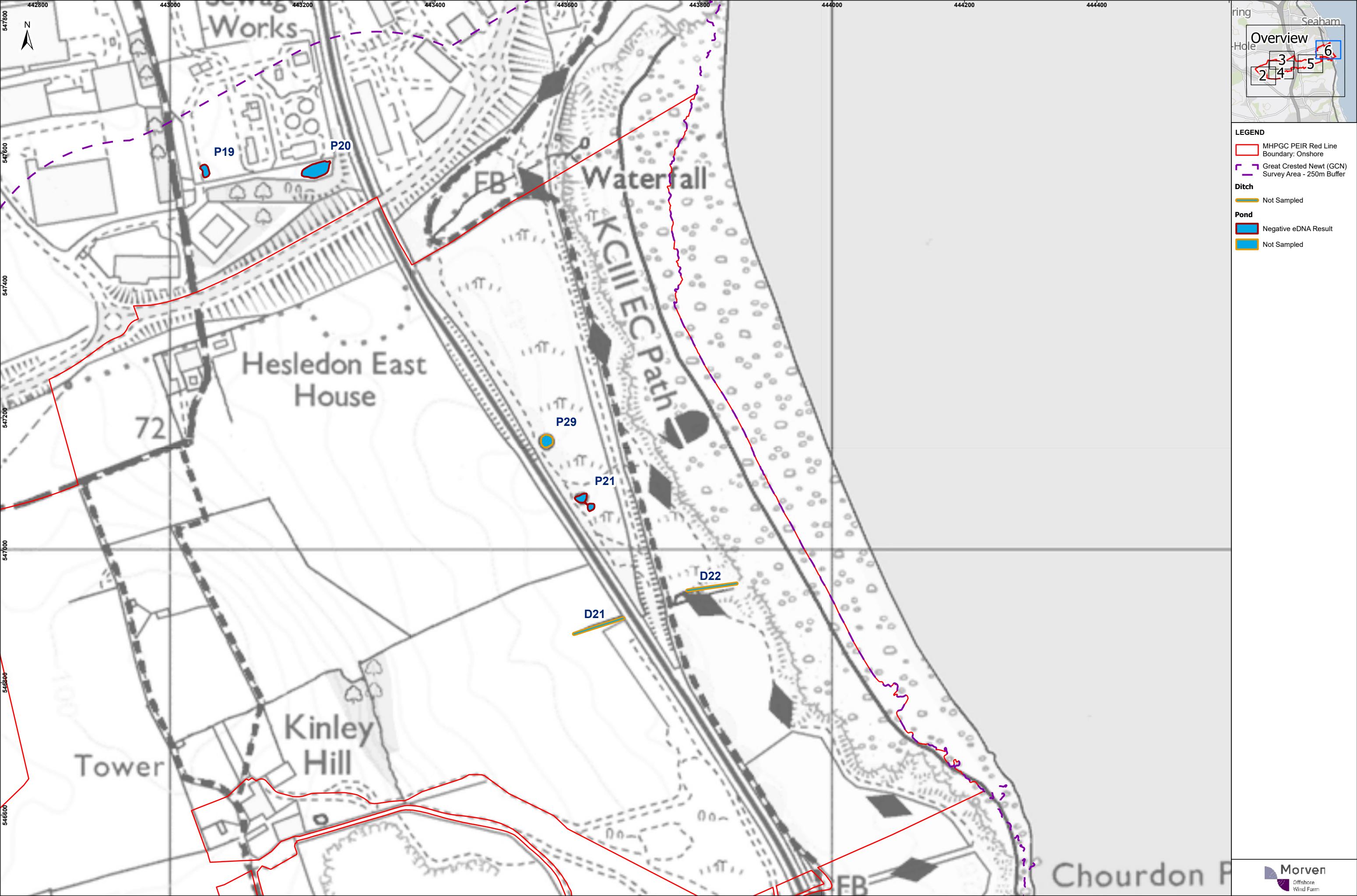
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Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
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Drawing Number: MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-065				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2026	Initial Issue	EH	LT
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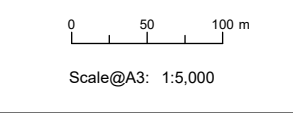




- LEGEND**
- MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore
 - Great Crested Newt (GCN) Survey Area - 250m Buffer
 - Ditch**
 - Not Sampled
 - Pond**
 - Negative eDNA Result
 - Not Sampled

Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2 MHPGC PROJECT GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY RESULTS SHEET 6 OF 6



Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

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Drawing Number:
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-065

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
00	17/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-

4 Summary

- 4.1.1.1 This report presents the results of the GCN desk study and field surveys undertaken for the MHPGC Project to inform **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR.**
- 4.1.1.2 The desk study identified 32 potentially suitable waterbodies. A total of 31 waterbodies, comprising 20 ponds and 11 ditches were visited during initial walkover survey and assessed for their potential to support GCN, while one waterbody could not be assessed due to no land access. However, the preceding spring leading up to the field surveys in 2025 had been subject to minimal rainfall. As such, 19 of the waterbodies identified as potentially suitable following the desk study were either dried up or not present. Presence/likely absence surveys using eDNA analysis were undertaken for a total of 12 waterbodies within the Great Crested Newt Survey Area during 2025 and 2026. No positive eDNA results were returned; indicating absence of GCN in the waterbodies sampled.

5 References

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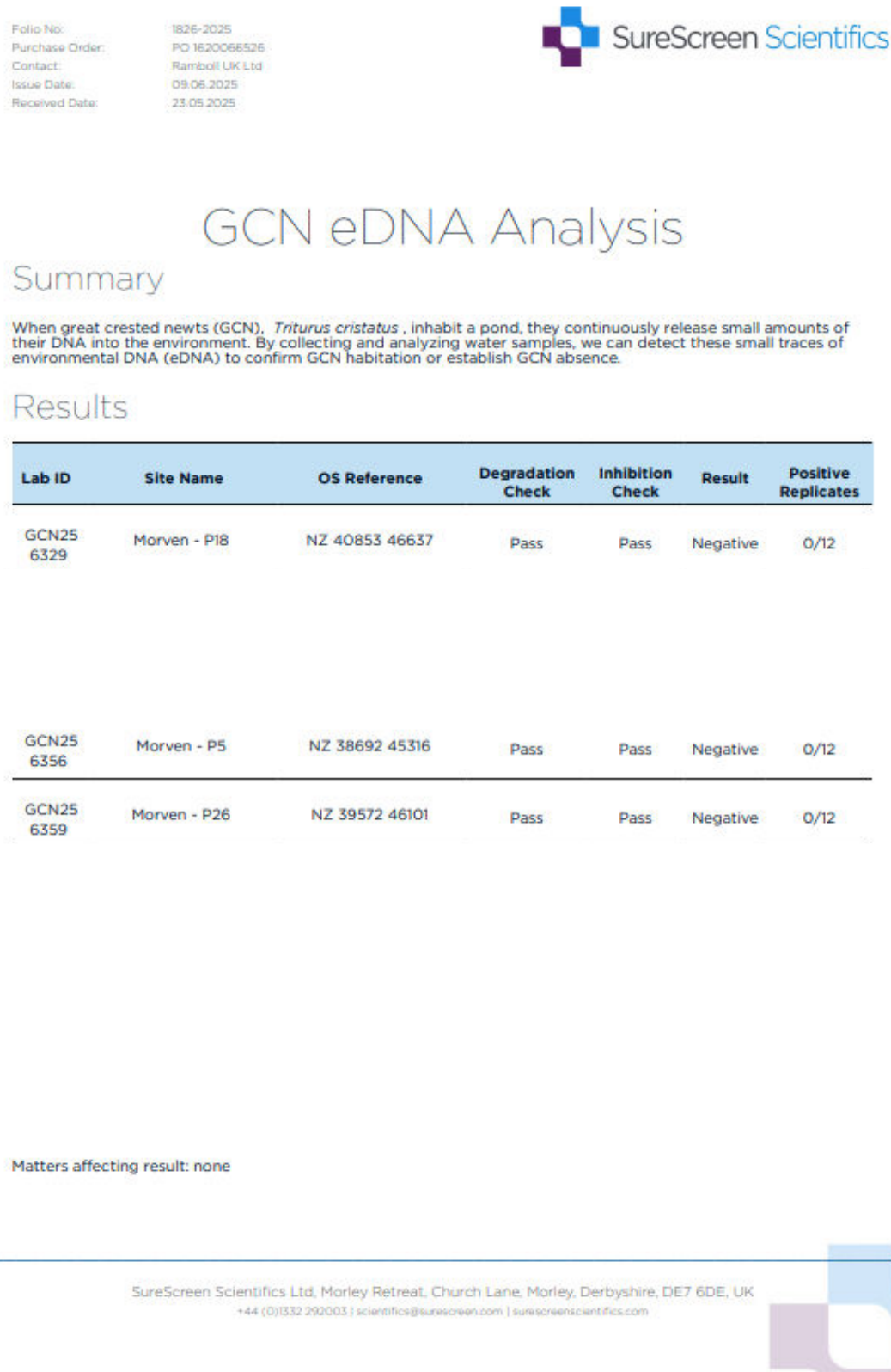
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Appendix 1

A.1 SureScreen Scientifics GCN Report

Figure A.1: SureScreen Scientifics GCN eDNA Analysis



Folio No: 1810-2025
Purchase Order: PO 1620066526
Contact: Ramboll UK Ltd.
Issue Date: 09.06.2025
Received Date: 23.05.2025



GCN eDNA Analysis

Summary

When great crested newts (GCN), *Triturus cristatus*, inhabit a pond, they continuously release small amounts of their DNA into the environment. By collecting and analyzing water samples, we can detect these small traces of environmental DNA (eDNA) to confirm GCN habitation or establish GCN absence.

Results

Lab ID	Site Name	OS Reference	Degradation Check	Inhibition Check	Result	Positive Replicates
GCN25 6353	Morven - P20	NZ 43234 47574	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN25 6358	Morven - P19	NZ 43053 47575	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12

Matters affecting result: none

Reported by: Amy Bermudez

Approved by: Vanessa Hind



Folio No: 971-2026
 Purchase Order: PO 1620072258
 Contact: Ramboll UK Ltd
 Issue Date: 13.05.2026
 Received Date: 28.04.2026



GCN eDNA Analysis

Summary

When great crested newts (GCN), *Triturus cristatus*, inhabit a pond, they continuously release small amounts of their DNA into the environment. By collecting and analyzing water samples, we can detect these small traces of environmental DNA (eDNA) to confirm GCN habitation or establish GCN absence.

Results

Lab ID	Site Name	OS Reference	Degradation Check	Inhibition Check	Result	Positive Replicates
GCN26 03421	Morven - PW37	NZ 38204 45710	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 03422	Morven - PW39	NZ 38791 45600	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 03423	Morven - PW5	NZ 38664 45293	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 03424	Morven - P18	NZ 40870 46649	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 03425	Morven - P14	NZ 39693 45977	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 03426	Morven - PW38	NZ 38551 45511	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
R26 00919	Morven - P15	NZ 40462 46391	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
R26 00921	Morven - P21	NZ 43628 47072	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
R26 00922	Morven - NP2	NZ 38208 45580	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
R26 00923	Morven - P26	NZ 39547 46134	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12